PCT/FR2004/000086
Etienne-Emile BAULIEU et al.
Attorney Docket No. 03715.0148-00000

AMENDMENTS UNDER PCT ARTICLE 34

(ARTICLE 34 AMENDMENTS)

International Application No. PCT/FR2004/000086

MAILSTOP PCT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REQUEST FOR SUBSTITUTION OF REPLACEMENT SHEETS

Please substitute the attached replacement sheets 23-25 of the claims containing an English-language translation of the Article 34 Amendments for sheets 23-25 of the claims in the enclosed English-language translation of the as-filed PCT application. It is respectfully requested that the claims in the substitute sheets be examined during examination of the patent application. Claims 1-12 are currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
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Dated: July 15, 2005

By: _____
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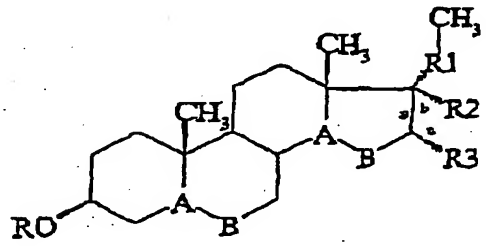
EFC/FPD/blc

Claims

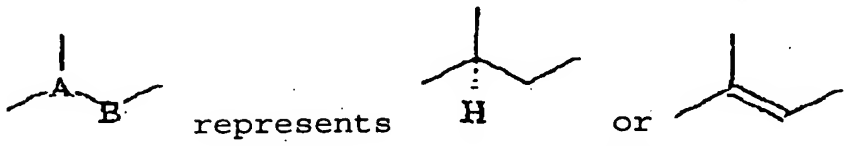
1. The use of 3-methoxy-pregnenolone or a molecule derived from pregnenolone that contains a 3-methoxy function and is incapable of being converted into a metabolite or ester sulfate of pregnenolone, for the preparation of a drug to treat a degenerative disease of the nervous system, such as a disease chosen from the group comprising Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, age-induced memory loss, memory loss induced by the taking of substances, a traumatic lesion, a cerebral lesion, a lesion of the spinal cord, in particular medullary compression, ischemia, pain, notably neuritic pain, nerve degeneration, and multiple sclerosis, with the aforementioned molecule presenting formula I:



I

in which:

R = CH_3

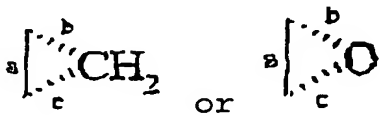


R1 = -CO-; -CH(OH)- or -CH(O-$COCH_3$)-

R2 = H or $CHCl_2$,

R3 = H or CH_3, or

R2 and R3 together form a ring:



2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the aforementioned drug also comprises an excipient that makes it possible to formulate the aforementioned molecule derived from pregnenolone to cross the blood-brain barrier.
3. The use according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the aforementioned drug is presented in an injectable form.
4. The use according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the aforementioned drug is presented in a form allowing it to be taken orally.
5. The use according to one of the claims 1 to 4, wherein the aforementioned molecule is 3-methoxy-PREG.
6. The use according to one of the claims 1 to 5, wherein the aforementioned molecule is 3β-methoxy-pregna-5-ene-20-one-17α-dichloromethyl.
7. The use according to one of the claims 1 to 5, wherein the aforementioned molecule is 3β-methoxy-5α-pregnane-20-one.
8. The use according to one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein the aforementioned drug comprises a quantity of 3-methoxy-pregnenolone or of a derived molecule ranging between 50 and 2500 mg.
9. 3-methoxy-pregnenolone as a drug.
10. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising 3-methoxy-pregnenolone or a molecule derived from pregnenolone that contains a 3-methoxy function of general formula I as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
11. An *in vitro* method for increasing the stabilization and/or inducing the polymerization of the microtubules in a cell, comprising the step of exposing the aforementioned cell to the presence of 3-methoxy-pregnenolone at a concentration of approximately 0.5 to 50 μM.
12. An *in vitro* method for increasing neuritic sprouting in a cell, comprising the step of exposing the aforementioned

cell to the presence of 3-methoxy-pregnenolone at a concentration of approximately 0.5 to 50 μM.